

INTRODUCTION

The cloze stories and activities in this book were created to highlight and reinforce specific comprehension skills and increase fluency. Each story features an interesting science or social studies topic in a “bare-bones” format that offers no visual cues or story titles. Students must determine the main idea by using context clues only.

The words in each passage have not been deleted at random. Care has been taken to include all of the parts of speech and an effort was made to choose deletions that would challenge but not confuse students. Answers are selected from the word box at the beginning of each story. After the student has filled in the blanks with the appropriate words and re-read the story to make sure it makes sense, they can then create a title for the story to show their understanding of the main idea.

The stories are sequential in length and reading difficulty, beginning with short paragraphs and building to full-page stories. Reading level ranges from grade 3 to grade 5. Fluency is promoted by requiring students to read each story at least twice. Follow-up questions focus on many different comprehension skills and help to promote a broad understanding of the story.

SKILLS INCLUDE:

- Main idea
- Inference
- Summarizing
- Sequence
- Finding facts/Reading for details
- Analogy
- Choosing the right word
- Resource skills
- Locating the answer
- Drawing conclusions
- Predicting outcomes
- Context clues
- Vocabulary
- Fact or opinion
- Cause and effect
- Summarizing
- Prior knowledge

We have included a BONUS CD with Adobe Acrobat® PDF files for each story and activity. To use the CD:

For Windows:

1. If the CD file directory does not open automatically, double click the CD ROM drive in “My Computer”.
2. Double click the story you want to print. Acrobat Reader® should start automatically.
3. If you do not have Acrobat Reader® installed on your computer, you can either download from **www.adobe.com** or install from the CD. Open the Acrobat Reader® Installer folder, then open the Acrobat® for PC folder and double click the file: **AdbeRdr70_distrib_enu**.

For Mac:

1. If the CD file directory does not open automatically, double click the CD ROM icon on your desktop.
2. Double click the story you want to print. Acrobat Reader® should start automatically.
3. If you do not have Acrobat Reader® installed on your computer, you can either download from **www.adobe.com** or install from the CD. Open the Acrobat Reader® Installer folder, then open the Acrobat® for Mac folder and double click the file: **AdbeRdr70_enu_full.dmg**.

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks. When you are finished, give the story a title.

looks	were	called	gloves
hot	buns	too	cook

(title)

Why is a wiener _____ a hot dog? Some people say it is because a wiener _____ like a dachshund dog, and it is served _____ and spicy. When hot dogs _____ first sold at fairs, they were not put in buns. People said they were _____ hot to hold. The _____ loaned them gloves, but then the people walked away with the _____. Then the cook got the idea to put hot dogs in _____.

Read the story to make sure it makes sense.

VOCABULARY

1. What is another name for hot dog? _____

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

2. How did the cook get the idea to put hot dogs in buns? _____

LOCATING THE ANSWER

3. Write the sentence that tells how the hot dog got its name. _____

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks. When you are finished, give the story a title.

worried

laws

fast

alone

had

front

warn

not

(title)

In the early 1900s, Henry Ford made the Model A car. It did not go very _____. Soon a lot of people had cars. Women _____ cars too.

Some men _____ about this. They thought that women were _____ good drivers. Some places passed _____ about how women could drive.

In one state, Tennessee, a woman could not drive _____. A man had to walk or run in _____ of the car. He had to wave a red flag to _____ people.

Read the story to make sure it makes sense.

LOCATING THE ANSWER

1. Write the sentence that tells how men felt about women drivers. _____
- _____

INFERENCE

2. What made it possible for men to walk or run in front of a car? _____
- _____

OPINION

3. Do you think the law about women drivers was fair? _____
- _____

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks. When you are finished, give the story a title.

bill	webbed	swim	like
beaver's	eggs	on	mammals

(title)

A platypus is a mammal that is much _____ a bird. It has _____ feet like a duck. Its mouth is a flat _____ like a duck's. It also has a furry body like a beaver's. Its tail is like a _____ too. This odd animal lives _____ land. Yet it likes to _____ in water.

A platypus lays _____ like a bird. But it gives milk to its babies like all _____ do.

The platypus is truly a mixed-up animal.

Read the story to make sure it makes sense.

CLASSIFYING INFORMATION

1. What groups do these belong to?

wolf, cat, zebra, camel _____

robin, sparrow, chicken, owl _____

lizard, snake, turtle, crocodile _____

COMPARISON/CONTRAST

2. How is a platypus like a bird? _____

How is a platypus like a mammal? _____

WORD DEFINITION

3. What word in the story means "strange or unusual"? _____

Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks. When you are finished, give the story a title.

lady

portrait

worth

paintings

grand

artist

gallery

the

(title)

The *Mona Lisa* is one of the most famous _____ in the world. It is a portrait of a _____ with an odd smile. Leonardo da Vinci is the _____ who painted the *Mona Lisa*. He did this around _____ year 1500.

No one thought much about the _____ for almost 300 years. Then art critics started to write _____ things about it. It became well known.

The *Mona Lisa* is now _____ a fortune. It hangs in the Louvre, a famous art _____ in Paris, France.

Read the story to make sure it makes sense.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT WORD

1. One who judges the work of others is:
- an artist da Vinci a critic a lady

INFERENCE

2. Why do you think the portrait became well-known only after art critics started to write about it? _____
- _____

ANALOGY

3. Complete the analogy:

Los Angeles is to the U.S. as Paris is to _____